

STAT

Approved For Release 2008/01/11 : CIA-RDP91B00135R000200320014-1

**Page Denied**

Approved For Release 2008/01/11 : CIA-RDP91B00135R000200320014-1

83-4332/11

**SPECIAL  
REPORT****Foreign Media  
Reaction**PAO : #  
83-0084

September 7, 1983

**WORLD REACTION TO U.S. ACTION ON JET TRAGEDY - VI**Summary

Extensive worldwide media reaction on the sixth day following the Soviet attack on South Korea's passenger jet underscored the Soviet admission that it had "stopped" the airliner, and President Reagan's statement defining the measures he will take as punishment.

The President's decision on countermeasures--widely seen as "measured," "moderate" and "restrained"--was highly praised, especially in Western Europe.

The independent Times of London said the President's "restrained reaction" was "striking." Center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich declared "Reagan acted as a statesman" and Milan's conservative Il Giornale today said the President no longer "looks like the reckless cowboy with an easy gun." In Tokyo, moderate Mainichi said, "We appreciate the restrained... speech."

Media in Western Europe anticipated that the next act of the drama would be the possible meeting between Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Madrid. Many writers took the line suggested in today's financial Les Echos of Paris which ran the headline "Shultz Will Ask Gromyko for an Accounting."

At the same time some editorialists doubted, as did Milan's centrist Corriere della Sera, that "neither the Americans nor the Soviets intend to throw away three years of work which have led to important agreements."

Moscow's reaction also prominently figured in media coverage. Istanbul's Gunes emphasized the U.S. admission about the RC-135. The liberal Irish Times of Dublin noted Moscow's insistence that "it is Reagan's fault" and "in this age of omnipresent espionage, nothing is impossible, but remains unlikely..."

Saudi Arabia's London-published al-Sharq al-Awsat judged that "both are at fault," while its sister paper, the Arab News, concluded "the blood of 269 victims...is on the hands of the United States and its leaders too."

United States Information Agency

DCI  
EXEC  
REG